

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 – 6 (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended): **[[A]] An isolated 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment of said protein having a length of at least 33 amino acids, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said protein or immunogenic fragment thereof has a sequence homology of at least 93 % ~~[[to]]~~ **with** the amino acid sequence ~~[[as]]~~ depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 **and is immunoreactive with antisera from *Streptococcus uberis* infected cows.****

8. (Currently Amended): **[[A]] The isolated 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 7, having an amino acid sequence homology of at least ~~94%, preferably 95 %, more preferably~~ 96% ~~[[to]]~~ **with** the amino acid sequence ~~[[as]]~~ depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2.**

9. (Currently Amended): **[[A]] The isolated 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment of said protein~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said protein or immunogenic fragment is encoded by ~~[[a]]~~ **the** nucleic acid sequence ~~according to claim 1 or 2. set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.~~**

10. (Currently Amended): **[[A]] An immunogenic composition comprising an isolated 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 7 ~~for use in a vaccine.~~**

Claims 11 – 20 (Canceled).